

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are pending. By this Amendment, claim 13 is amended.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representative by Examiner Rivera in the January 9, 2006 personal interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

During the personal interview, Applicants' representative traversed the rejection of claims 1, 2, 5-8, 12, 13 and 17-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Nagel et al. (Nagel), U.S. Patent No. 5,362,008. As agreed during the personal interview, Nagel fails to disclose the stopper as recited in claims 1 and 12. It was also agreed during the personal interview that Nagel fails to explicitly disclose using the rollers 12, 13 to exert a force on a sheet in a direction that is reverse to a curling direction of the sheet, as recited in claim 19. For reasons discussed in the January 6, 2006 Amendment, Nagel fails to exert the force of claim 19 because Nagel's rollers 12, 13 are used to relax the material 8.

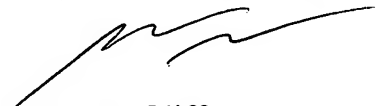
Applicants amend claim 13 to recite that a member is capable of urging a first end face so as to rotate in a direction toward a second end face. Support for the amendments to claim 13 can be found in paragraphs [0052] and [0053] of Applicants' specification, for example. Nagel fails to provide any member that is capable of urging the cassette 1 to rotate relative to the image forming apparatus.

It is respectfully requested the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing and the Amendment filed January 6, 2006, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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